

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

STR-04 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 /133 W

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R 061845Z NOV 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 8392

PASS STR; H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP MEETING: COUNTRY COMMENTS

REF: MTN GENEVA 8107

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS REFTEL, SPECIFICALLY INDICATING KEY COUNTRY POSITIONS ON SEVERAL ISSUES INCLUDING: CIRCULATION OF OFFERS, LIKELY PRODUCT COVERAGE IN TP, INTENTIONS DURING "PRELIMINARY SUBSTANTIVE REACTION" STAGE, MFN/GSP, AND OTHER AGENDA MATTERS. END SUMMARY

1. DEVELOPED COUNTRY SPOKESMEN:

A. EC (ABBOTT) WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF US POSITION THAT PROCEDURES ADOPTED IN JUNE INCLUDING ANOTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WERE BOTH NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT ON DATE FOR TABLING OFFERS, SHILE SEEKING TO AVOID LDC CRITICISM BY MAKING IT CLEAR THAT EC WOULD MEET ANY DATE FOR OFFERS CHOSEN. EC NOTED THAT NO REQUESTS WERE MADE OF EASTERN EUROPEAN OR MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LANGUAGE IN CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY LEAVING THIS POSSIBILITY AND INTRA-LDC REQUESTS OPEN. IN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO TP DEFINITION, EC SAID PRIORITY RANKING OF REQUESTS WOULD BE HELPFUL AS WELL AS IDENTIFICATION OF ALL COUNTRIES WITH EXPORT INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR ITEM. IN RESPONSE TO LDC QUESTIONS, EC USED EXAMPLE OF COPPER WIRE AS NON-TROPICAL PRODUCT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT RAW MATERIAL GENERALLY PRODUCED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TROPICS. PRESS REPORTS AFTERWARDS INDICATED THAT EC OFFER WOULD BE SOLELY ON PRODUCTS WITHIN BTN 1-24, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE 25-99 ALREADY COVERED BY GSP. EC MILDLY SUPPORTED NOTION OF ESTABLISHING TERMINAL DATE FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS PACKAGE ADVANCED BY WALKER (JAMAICA) POINTING TO DESIRABILITY OF CONCLUDING WORK OF TP GROUP AT AN EARLY STAGE, WHILE NOTING ANY REMAINING ISSUES ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN OTHER AREAS

OF NEGOTIATIONS (PRESS REPORTS INDICATING THAT THEY PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT JULY 1, 1976). EC ALSO EXPLAINED IT HAD CONSIDERABLY LESS PROBLEMS WITH CIRCULATION OF OFFERS, GIVEN ITS OFFERS WOULD BE QUITE TRANSPARENT BECAUSE OF INTERNAL PROCEDURES, BUT WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGING CHAIRMAN'S ASSERTION THAT SUFFICIENT CONSENSUS EXISTED TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO PUBLISH CIRCULATED OFFERS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. FINALLY, EC QUESTIONED WHY THERE WERE NO REQUESTS FOR PRICE STABILIZATION ON TP'S, CITING AT ONE POINT ITS OWN STABEX SCHEME. SWITZERLAND (DUNKEL) ASKED THE SAME RHETORICAL QUESTION.

B. JAPAN (UKAWA), CITING ITS OWN DOMESTIC PROCEDURES SEVERAL TIMES, IMPLIED THAT THE MORE TIME AVAILABLE TO IT THE MORE IMPROVED WOULD BE THE OFFER. JAPAN INDICATED REPEATEDLY THAT WHAT IT ABLE TO DO, AND WHEN, CLEARLY DEPENDENT ON OTHER DC'S. IT INDICATED THAT CLARIFICATION NOT COMPLETED AND THAT IT NEEDED BEST ARGUMENTS FROM LDC'S TO USE WITH ITS OWN DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES. JAPAN REMAINED RESISTANT TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND CIRCULATION OF OFFERS AMONG ALL PARTICIPANTS, CITING NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY (PRIVATELY THEY VIEW SUCH A PROCEDURE AS A KANGAROO COURT). COMMENT: JAPAN CLEARLY BUYING TIME TO DEVELOP OFFER, TO DECIDE INTERNALLY ON HOW TO RESPOND TO REQUEST LISTS FROM NON-GATT COUNTRIES OR COUNTRIES WHICH STILL APPLY ARTICLE XXXV AGAINST JAPAN (KENYA, NIGERIA), AND TO ASSESS IMPLICATIONS OF FORMAT FOR CIRCULATION OF OFFERS. END COMMENT.

C. NORDICS (KNUTSTEDT) NOTED THAT THEY HAD COMPLETED PRELIMINARY SUBSTANTIVE REACTIONS, WERE PREPARED TO TABLE AND IMPLEMENT OFFERS THIS YEAR BY EXTENDING GSP PRODUCT COVERAGE, BUT INSISTED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF OFFERS BY DC'S. THE NORDICS EVENTUALLY PROPOSED MARCH 1 AS THE DATE FOR TABLING OFFERS, AND INDICATED THEY WOULD RELUCTANTLY PARTICIPATE IN PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS, HOWEVER PREFERRING TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER MARCH 1. AFTER AGREEMENT IN PLENARY ON DATE, THEY INDICATED NO PERCEIVED NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATION PHASE SINCE THEY HAD ALREADY COMPLETED PRELIMINARY SUBSTANTIVE REACTIONS.

D. AUSTRALIA (MOORE-WILTON) IN RESPONSE TO OFFER DATE THIS YEAR SUGGESTED BY NORDICS, QUESTIONED WHETHER COUNTRIES MAKING MFN OFFERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME DATE AND PROCEDURES AS THOSE RESPONDING VIA GSP. HE NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA'S VIEW WAS THAT GSP WAS OUTSIDE OF NEGOTIATIONS IN THAT IT WAS A UNILATERAL, NON-RECIPROCAL DONOR DECISION. AUSTRALIAN GSP WAS BEING

IMPROVED EARLY IN 1976 AND REVISIONS WOULD, HOWEVER, INCLUDE SOME PRODUCTS ON WHICH MFN REDUCTIONS NOT POSSIBLE. AUSTRALIA WAS INSISTENT THAT OFFERS BE MADE INITIALLY TO REQUESTING COUNTRIES ONLY, NOTING THAT INITIAL OFFERS COULD BE IMPROVED OR WITHDRAWN BASED ON BILATERAL REACTIONS. AUSTRALIA CONTINUALLY CHALLENGED CHAIRMAN'S ASSERTION THAT OFFERS CIRCULATED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN ALL PAST NEGOTIATIONS AND THUS SHOULD BE CIRCULATED IN TP GROUP.

E. US (GRAEF) DESCRIBED US DOMESTIC PROCEDURES IN DETAIL, NOTING IT EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO GIVE PRELIMINARY REACTIONS IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING MID-NOVEMBER, AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE OFFERS BILATERALLY IN JANUARY. OFFERS COULD NOT BE TABLED UNTIL DOMESTIC PROCEDURES WERE COMPLETED, AND US COULD NOT ESTABLISH A TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION AT THIS TIME. AFTER HEARING SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR OFFER DATE RANGING FROM THIRD WEEK IN NOV (ASEAN), DEC 1 (ANDEAN), DEC 31 (NORDIC, BRAZIL), US PROPOSED SOMETIME IN MARCH 1967 AS MORE REALISTIC PROVIDED DOMESTIC PROCEDURES COMPLETED. MARCH 1 EVENTUALLY AGREED UPON WITH ABOVE CAVEAT. US INDICATED OPENNESS TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WHEN APPROPRIATE, DEFINING APPROPRIATE AS AFTER A FULL ROUND OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THOSE PRODUCTS WHERE IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AND INCLUDING COUNTRIES WITH SIGNIFICANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPORT INTEREST (BOTH LDC AND DC) WHETHER A REQUEST- INX COUNTRY OR NOT. IN RESPONSE TO TWO LDC INTERVENTIONS ON NONRECIPROCAL NATURE OF GROUP, US NOTED IT WOULD SEEK RECIPROCITY CONSIST WITH PROVISL OF TOKYO DECLARATION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT IMPLYING TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF US POSITION. US REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MFN CONCESSIONS AND NOT GSP WHICH WAS UNILATERAL NOTING, HOWEVER, IT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS OF ALL OTHER DC'S ON THIS QUESTION.

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FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

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PASS STR; H PASS CODEL

2. CHAIRMAN'S PARTICIPATION: CHAIRMAN, ARGENTINE  
AMBASSADOR GABRIEL MARTINEZ, PLAYED A PARTICULARLY  
ACTIVE ROLE DURING THIS MEETING IN CHAMPIONING ISSUES  
OF INTEREST TO THE LDC'S IN CONTRAST TO HIS MORE  
NEUTRAL ROLE AS CHAIRMAN IN THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS.  
HE WAS INSISTENT FROM THE BEGINNING ON THE IMPORTANCE  
OF SETTING A DATE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF INITIAL  
OFFERS BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND ATTEMPTED TO  
MAKE AN INTERPRETATION (WHICH WAS CHALLENGED) THAT  
THE GROUP HAD EARLIER TACITLY AGREED SUCH OFFERS  
SHOULD BE PRESENTED BY DECEMBER 31, 1975, EMPHASIZING  
THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD CONSIDER IT A  
"MAJOR CHANGE" IF OFFERS WERE NOT PRESENTED BY THIS  
DATE. AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ WAS ALSO ACTIVE ON THE  
LDC SIDE OF THE CIRCULATION OF OFFERS ISSUE. HE  
INITIALLY SOUGHT AGREEMENT THAT AS ALL PAST GATT  
NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN "TRANSPARENT", ALL OFFERS  
SHOULD BE ROUTINELY DISTRIBUTED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.  
THIS VIEW WAS CHALLENGED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, ES-  
PECIALLY THAT OF AUSTRALIA, AND THE ISSUE WAS CAR-  
RIED OVER TO THE NEXT MEETING.  
COMMENT: ARGENTINA IS NOT DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH  
THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS ISSUE PER SE. IT IS LIKELY  
MARTINEZ'S PARTICIPATION WAS MOTIVATED BY HIS PERSONAL  
CONVICTIONS AND DESIRE TO BE AN ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN  
AND PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUN-  
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TRIES. END COMMENT.

3. DEVELOPING COUNTRY SPOKESMEN:  
A. BRAZIL (MEDEIROS) PLAYED A LEADING ROLE FOR THE LDC'S AND  
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING THE CONSULTATIONS  
FROM THE TECHNICAL LEVEL TO THE SUBSTANTIVE LEVEL TO  
MEET THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT IN THE TOKYO DECLARA-  
TION. INITIALLY PROPOSING DECEMBER 31, 1975, AS AN  
"INDICATIVE" TIMETABLE FOR PRESENTATION OF DC  
OFFERS, BRAZIL EVENTUALLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO THE  
MARCH 1 TIMETABLE WHILE STATING DC'S SHOULD COMMIT  
THEMSELVES TO MAKE IT A MATTER OF UTMOST POLITICAL

IMPORTANCE TO MEET THIS DEADLINE. BRAZIL WAS THE STAUNCHEST PROPONENT THAT OFFERS SHOULD BE CIRCULATED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. THIS WAS FOR BRAZIL A BASIC ELEMENT OF THE MULTILATERAL ASPECTS OF THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS, AND ONE ON WHICH, IF AGREEMENT WAS NOT POSSIBLE WITHIN THE TP GROUP, THAT BRAZIL WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RAISE TO THE TNC. (BRAZILIAN DEL TOLD USDEL PRIVATELY THAT BRAZIL SOUGHT TO AVOID BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH US WITHIN THE MTN, FEARFUL OF WHAT RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS THE US MIGHT ASK FROM BRAZIL IN A BILATERAL CONTEXT.)

B. JAMAICA (WALKER) WAS ACTIVE DURING THE DEBATE, NOTING THE TP WAS THE "LEAST UNSATISFACTORY" OF ALL MTN GROUPS AND WAS NOT "DISCOURAGING", BASED ON: (1) NO DC HAD RAISED ISSUE THAT PROBLEMS IN OTHER AREAS OF MTN WOULD SLOW DOWN PROGRESS IN TP GROUP; (2) NO DC HAD SAID IT WOULD NOT DEAL WITH ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEMS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN THE GROUP. HE STATED THAT THE NON-RECIPROCAL NATURE OF THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS EXERCISE APPEARED ASSURED, AS NO ONE HAD SPOKEN IN THE MEETINGS OF ASKING FOR COMPENSATION IN EXCHANGE FOR CONCESSIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS. WALKER RECOGNIZED TWIN OBJECTIVE OF EARLIEST POSSIBLE PACKAGE WITH MOST SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. DURING DEBATE, HE SUGGESTED THAT MORE FLEXIBILITY COULD BE OBTAINED IF A TARGET DATE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, RATHER THAN SUBMISSION OF OFFERS, WAS CHOSEN, AND SUGGESTED JUNE 30, 1976.

C. MEXICO (TELLO) MADE SEVERAL SHORT INTERVENLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIONS, INCLUDING THAT RECIPROCITY WAS NOT TO BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THIS GROUP. COMMENT: MEXICAN DEL TOLD USDEL INFORMALLY THAT HE HAD CHECKED WITH AMBASSADOR GARRIDO IN MEXICO CITY DURING MEETING WHO HAD INSTRUCTED THAT ISSUE OF RECIPROCITY NOT BE JOINED, AFTER USDEL REPLIED THAT RECIPROCITY WOULD BE EXPECTED FOLLOWING REMARKS BY JAMAICAN AND MEXICAN DELEGATES. END COMMENT.

D. INDIA (HEMRAJANI) ASSUMED DISCUSSION WAS ONLY OF "INITIAL" OFFERS BY DC'S, WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, I.E. IMPROVEMENT, HE MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WHEN THERE IS INTEREST OF SEVERAL LDC'S ON A PARTICULAR PRODUCT IN A DC MARKET. INDIA PROPOSED A THIRD VARIATION ON THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN CIRCULATION OF OFFERS, OFFERS TO BE ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO ALL THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAD INDICATED A TRADE INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR PRODUCT. INDIA ALSO WAS THE ONLY SPEAKER ON THE AGENDA ITEM FOR SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR LDC'S, ASKING THAT IT BE CARRIED

OVER ON THE AGENDA TO THE NEXT MEETING. INDIA NOTED ITS BELIEF THAT IT WAS AN OBLIGATION, NOT ONLY OF LDC'S BUT OF DC'S AS WELL, TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON WHAT SPECIAL MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN. INDIA STATED ITS BELIEF THAT GSP IS RELEVANT TO MTN QUESTIONS.

E. INDONESIA (AWUY) IN INITIAL PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF ASEAN GROUP NAOTED KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SLOW PROGRESS TO DATE. REFERRED TO TOKYO DECLARATION, AMBASSADOR DENT'S STATEMENT AT JULY TNC, AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS AT SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.

F. MALAYSIA (PHANG) MADE ONE POINTED INTERVENTION ACCUSING DC'S OF BLACKMAIL; THAT IF LDC'S PUSHED FORWARD WITH EARLY TARGET DATE THEY WOULD GET MEAGER RESULTS, AND WAS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL OF JAPANESE DELEGATION. NOTED HIS BELIEF THAT GSP IS OUTSIDE OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS.

G. OTHER LDC DELEGATIONS INITIALLY EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH SLOW PACE OF TP NEGOTIATIONS AND NEED FOR MORE RAPID ACTION TO MEET POLITICAL COMMITMENTS INCLUDED: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, COSTA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RICA FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET, ECUADOR, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, AND TURKEY. WALKER

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## Message Attributes

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